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### YouTube video leads to police investigation

DRIVING A YouTube video showing a seven-year-old boy at the wheel of an SUV with his family cheering him on — has prompted an investigation by Quebec police and family services, police said yesterday.

The video, apparently shot by the boy's father from the

lings

passenger seat

boy

watch

was

of

Pro-

"This is a as the condition drives and his **new one** mom and sibfor me."

from the back Sqt. seat, Chantal brought to the attention Mackels Quebec

vincial Police Monday, Sgt. Chantal Mackels said. "We now know who the person is," Mackels said, noting charges are still being

worked out. And while she has seen cases of children driving under the legal age of 16 years before, Mackels said she's never come across a case where the evidence is supplied online, by the perpetrator's proud father.

"Like this, on YouTube? No. This is a new one for me." Mackels said. REUTERS

### In mourning A hero comes home



Mourners carry roses to the casket of fallen Canadian soldier Corp. Christian Bobbitt during a repatriation ceremony at Canadian Forces Base Trenton yesterday.

## Verdict today

TIM WIECLAWSKI

### Nearly four months after it began, Mayor Larry O'Brien's influence peddling trial will come to an end this morning.

O'Brien is facing two criminal charges stemming from allegations that during a July 12, 2006, meeting, O'Brien offered to help get Terry Kilrea a position on the National Parole Board in exchange for Kilrea Larry O'Brien withdrawing from

the mayoral campaign. O'Brien was officially

charged by the Ontario Provincial Police on Dec. 10, 2007. He has maintained his innocence all along and pleaded not guilty when his trial started on May 4.

During the trial, O'Brien's

defence lawyer Michael Edelson argued that Kilrea misunderstood and exaggerated a simple inquiry from O'Brien regarding Kilrea's career ambitions.

Edelson attempted to portray Kilrea as a "vindictive,"
"mean-spirited" and "disingenuous" failed

failed politician who masterminded the lease of this job offer story to get back at O'Brien or, at the very least, keep his name in the news.

However, Crown attorney Scott Hutchison argued there is

sufficient objective evidence, in the form of email exchanges and phone records, to corroborate Kilrea's version of the story.

The venue for the verdict has been moved from the cosy confines of courtroom 36 to the larger room 37.



Paris racks up best friends

ETHICS As Canada expects to have enough antiviral drugs for everyone who needs them during an H1N1 pan-demic, ethicists ask whether we should consider giving some away to the rest of the world.

The Canadian pandemic

plan includes a national stockpile of antiviral drugs that provincial and territorial governments plan to increase to 55 million doses to handle the increased demand for the medication due to the outbreak of the H1N1 influenza virus.

"We're actually in good shape on antivirals thanks to the foresight of the public health agency," said Dr. Peter Singer, a bioethicist director of McLaughlin-Rothman Centre at the University of Toronto. "That is a good

time to reflect on just how lucky we are in relationship to other countries around the world, particularly on the antiviral issue, and maybe a time to begin to reflect on what we can do to help." The Public Health Agency of Canada has not

yet decided whether to donate any part of its antiviral stockpile to developing countries who are not as well prepared, and said it is waiting for the World Health Organization to officially ask for help.

TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE



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**AUGUST 21** The block between O'Connor & Bank





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This fall, it will be easier for Ottawa residents to get to Newfoundland. Starting Oct. 5, Porter Airlines will have four new flights between St. John's and Ottawa. METRO OTTAWA

## Local



### Lights in the Gatineau night

For the 11th year, the City of Gatineau and Gatineau police are holding their Lights in the Night program. This year's program, which kicks off this Thursday from 7 to 9:30 p.m., has volunteers and police officers circulating in various areas of Gatineau, including Aylmer and Hull, with the goal of making residents feel safer, to prevent crimes and to make the jobs of police officers, firefighters, paramedics and other emergency workers easier. **METRO OTTAWA** 

### Police seek man after alleged sexual assault

**INVESTIGATION** Ottawa police are investigating an alleged sexual assault after an incident was reported on Cumberland Street at St. Patrick Street on Monday.

At 2:30 a.m., a 23-year-old woman was walking on Cumberland Street when an unknown male allegedly grabbed her from behind and inappropriately touched her, police said vesterday. The woman screamed and the male left walking southbound on Cumberland Street.

Police are seeking an English-speaking white male, 25 to 30 years old and weighing 180 to 190 pounds.

Anyone with information should call police at 613-236-1222 ext. 5944.

TRACEY TONG/METRO OTTAWA

### metr@news.ca What's online today.

Video Officials say the next 48 hours will be crucial as wildfires threaten B.C. communities at metronews.ca/canada Search for careers using Metro's Workopolis powered job search Video Toronto residents rejoice as garbage collectors



KENO PICK Ontario Pick 3: 3 9 0; Ontario Pick 4: 8 5 8 8 Encore: 4734329

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### Lantern fest in search of 'magic' | Folk festival

### More than 10,000 expected at Saturday's 'enchanted' evening

TRACEY TONG

Years ago, Joanne Hughes went to a lantern festival in Vancouver.

She enjoyed it so much that she started the Ottawa Lumière Festival when she moved here to work at the Crichton Cultural Community Centre.

This Saturday, Ottawa's most fanciful, magical and whimsical festival is expected to draw more than 10,000 people to Stanley Park in New Edinburgh

when it kicks off its sixth annual edition.

The festival has come a long way since 1,500 people came out in its inaugural year. The 2009 edition features over 2,000 lanterns, light installations, performers and costumes.

"It's got that enchanted feel," said Hughes. "Little girls want to be pretty and boys like to dress up like knights. And you don't grow out of that, not at all. It's the same reason we like prom dresses and wedding gowns. It's lovely, for one night, to put on fairy wings

### **Lumière Festival**

 In lead-up to the festival. the CCCC offers lantern-making workshops today and tomorrow at 10 a.m. and 6 p.m. and sells lantern-making kits.

and feel normal. By dressing up, you become part of the event," she said.
"I think it's a very unique

festival. We work hard to get you to feel that you're going for a walk."

One of the more unique features is that the festival schedule, Hughes added.

"Magic is found when you encounter something spontaneous," she said.

For that reason, perform-– which include 150 professional fire spinners, dancers, acrobats and musicians - are spread all over the site, she said.

"We really encourage people to bring a lantern and dress up," she said. "And not just children. We see adults dressed up as princesses, fairies, wizards and dragons, and in historical and cultural costumes

### wants to involve folks

TRACEY TONG tracey.tong@metronews.ca

MUSIC Between Bluesfest, Jazzfest and Chamberfest, Ottawa seems to have all the music bases covered.

But the Ottawa Folk Festival will touch on these genres — and more — when it kicks off at Britannia Park later this month.

"The folk festival's not just about folk music. It's about everything — folk, rock, country, Celtic, African and swing dance music," said festival cofounder and artistic director Chris White. "We're trying to be as inclusive as

Canadian Music Hall of Famer Bruce Cockburn, former Barenaked Ladies frontman Steven Page, The Sadies, Amy Millan, Joel Plaskett and Kinnie Starr are headlining at the festival from Aug. 21-23.

This year's festival goes far beyond just the music, said White.

In its 16th year, the festival has become about "finding things that include people of all ages," said White.
"We have an ever-increasing emphasis on participation.

Festivalgoers can build a ukulele, paint, dance, learn to play a musical instrument and do yoga, said White.

"We're setting up a situation where people can get involved and take something home, whether it be knowledge or an idea that leads to something else. We have objectives that go beyond the actual weekend.

### City's 'new music' scene lacking: Composer

Despite having one of the most important chamber music festivals in the world, Ottawa is not a hot bed for creating new music, according to Gary Hayes, president of the Ottawa New Music Creators.

"If you look at some of the new music scenes in Toronto or Montreal, or some of the smaller cities like Winnipeg, they have very active new music scenes," said Hayes. "Ottawa hasn't much of that and it needs to be developed."

The ONMC is an association of musicians and composers who came together almost two years ago out of a concern that there was not a lot of new music be-

ing created in Ottawa. Yesterday, Chamberfest audiences got a small sampling of the type of music created by Ottawa composers like the late Patrick . Cardy. Colin Mack and Deirdre Piper.



Pianist Michelle Schumann performs Starry Night by Ottawa composer Colin Mack during Chamberfest's Ottawa New Music Creations concert, yesterday afternoon at Saint Brigid's Centre for the Arts and Humanities

Texas-based Canadian born pianist Michelle Schumann played two pieces yesterday, one of them composed by Hayes.

Schumann, who was performing for the first time in Ottawa, was surprised that around 200 people turned out to see the concert on a

Tuesday afternoon.

Heading into the final weekend of Chamberfest, coartistic director Roman Borys said a Thursday noonhour concert of seven viols playing Henry Purcell's Complete Fantasias for the Viols is one of the highlights leading up to the grand finale.

TIM WIECLAWSKI/METRO OTTAWA



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PM to announce Panama free-trade deal

4

Prime Minister Stephen Harper is expected to announce a free-trade deal with Panama next week when he meets with the right-wing supermarket magnate who won the presidency of the Central American country three months ago. METRO NEWS SERVICES

## Canada



### **Human foot found in trash**

A foot found in an upstate New York garbage dump Monday night is at the centre of a Toronto investigation because after suggestions that it might have originated from this city's trash. Workers at the Seneca, N.Y. garbage dump just outside Buffalo discovered the foot around 8:50 p.m. Monday while manually removing recyclables off a conveyer belt carrying that displayed the Toronto trash, Toronto police Staff Sgt. David Vickers said.

### Curb aid to Ethiopia, says lawyer

POLITICS Canada's government should consider curbing foreign aid to Ethiopia to express its unhappiness over the case of a Canadian jailed for life in the African country, a lawyer for the man said yesterday.

An Ethiopian court jailed Bashir Makhtal on Monday after he was convicted of membership in a rebel group fighting for independence for an ethnically Somali part of the country.

Lorne Waldman, Makhtal's Canadian lawyer, said the charges were baseless and he called on Ottawa to look at its aid to Ethiopia. In 2006-07, the latest period for which figures were available, the assistance totalled \$83 million.

"We have a lot of leverage because we provide a very generous aid package to Ethiopia," Waldman told the CBC.

Makhtal's relatives in Canada, speaking after the sentence was handed down, also called on the federal government to freeze foreign aid.

TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE



Marie-Josee Levesque, an acrobat with Cirque Fantastic, performs at the sneak preview at Southgate Mall in Edmonton yesterday to help kick off its Aug. 5 expansion opening.

## Premiers take aim at 'Buy America'

Leaders gather to help PM repel U.S. protectionism

Canada's provincial and territorial leaders gather today in Regina amid urgent calls for them to help Prime Minister Stephen Harper repel U.S. protectionist "Buy America" trade policies.

Harper, who meets with U.S. President Barack Obama on Sunday, is banking on the premiers formally coming out against domestic discriminatory trading practices.

Harper hopes any premiers' accord can be used as leverage by Obama to convince protectionists in the U.S. Congress to give Canadian firms an exemption from the Buy America provisions being applied by state and local governments.

Saskatchewan Premier Brad Wall, who is hosting the three-day meeting, said in an interview yesterday he believes some sort of an agreement can be reached.

"I sense a great deal of consensus obviously "If we want the U.S to open their doors to us then we have to be prepared to open our doors to them."

Premier Dalton McGuinty

amongst the provinces to say, 'Look, if we're going to be going down and pointing out the problems with the Buy America plan we do have to make sure our own house in order,'." said Wall.

"After all of these years of seeing what has happened with free trade agreements, first with the U.S. and then with NAFTA, seeing the growth in trade from our country to other places and the jobs that have been created because of it and not seeing any of the predicted calamities ... we know we're always better off in free trade environments," he said.

Speaking to reporters in Mississauga before flying to Regina last night, Premier Dalton McGuinty said the premiers want "to enable the federal government to make a proposal to negotiate a new agreement that is specific to the stimulus monies coming out of Washington these days."

days."
"It's not an easy thing to do, because it means that we have to make some difficult decisions ourselves, to be free traders in the context of an era of globalization," said McGuinty.

"But if we want the U.S. to open their doors to us then we have to be prepared to open our doors to them," he said at a news conference announcing the province is investing \$16.7 million in Electrovaya, which makes batteries for electric cars.

TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

### **News** in brief

HEALTH Liberal government go-to man Rob Devitt is the new interim chief executive officer of scandal-ridden eHealth Ontario. The electronic health agency's board of directors announced yesterday Devitt, currently the president and CEO of Toronto East General Hospital, takes over immediately. Devitt

is the third CEO appointed at the agency this year. He will fill the eHealth top job until the end of December 2009 while the board searches for a permanent CEO. Devitt replaces Ron Sapsford, the deputy health minister, who was appointed June 9 after former CEO Sarah Kramer left the agency in early June. Kramer parted ways with eHealth amidst a spending scandal involving rich consultancy fees and the awarding of nearly \$5 million in untendered contracts — an amount that grew to \$16 million after new documents were revealed last week.

### McGuinty pushes for Pan-Am bid

GAMES Premier Dalton McGuinty secretly flew to Mexico City last Friday to lobby for Toronto's 2015 Pan American Games bid.

McGuinty's aides said he deliberately left off the trip from his official itinerary because he didn't want to tip off Toronto's competitors, Bogota, Colombia, and Lima, Peru. Reporters were told last Thursday that the premier was on "private" time that

"I travelled to Mexico City at the invitation of president Mario Vázquez Raña of the Pan American Sports Organization to discuss Toronto's bid for the 2015 Pan Am Games," the premier said in a statement yesterday. "I impressed upon the president that Ontario is fully committed to hosting a successful Games in 2015. During our meeting, President Vasquez Raña mentioned difficulties being encountered by the 2011 Pan Am Games being held in Guadalajara, Mexico."

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#### 'Sexting' on the rise in Britain

A growing number of British teens are swapping explicit images of themselves on mobile phones, leaving them open to bullying and victimization, police and a children's charity said yesterday. The practice, known as "sexting," has also resulted in intimate images of children being posted on sites used by pedophiles, according to Britain's Child Exploitation and Online Protection Centre. REUTERS



## World



Berlusconi's daughter questions dad

Italian Prime Minister Silvio Berlusconi's daughter has said she was amazed by the attention her father lavished on a teenage model. Barbara Berlusconi, 25, also told the Italian Vanity Fair, left, that politicians should uphold the values they preach publicly in their private lives — in contrast to Berlusconi's allies who say his personal life has no bearing on his public role. Berlusconi, 72, has denied an improper relationship with Noemi Letizia after showing up at her 18th birthday party with a \$8,600 US necklace, prompting his wife to seek a divorce over his alleged womanizing.

### Clinton secures release Sudanese police officers

North Korea pardons U.S. journalists, who leave with former president

North Korea said last night it had pardoned two jailed American journalists after former U.S. President Bill Clinton met the reclusive state's leader Kim Jong-il, a move some analysts said could pave the way to direct nuclear disarmament

Clinton's spokesman said the former president had left Pyongyang with the two reporters and they were flying to Los Angeles.

Washington, which is keen not to be seen to reward the isolated North for its recent nuclear and missile tests, insisted the meeting was a private one by Clinton. But Pyongyang, desperate for the recognition that direct talks with the Obama administration would bring, made clear it saw the visit in a much more official light. The

### Propaganda opportunity?

• The North Koreans immediately sought to put their stamp on the visit. "Clinton expressed words of sincere apology to Kim Jong Il for the hostile acts committed by the two American journalists against the DPRK (North Korea) after illegally intruding into it. Clinton courteously

North's KCNA news agency said Clinton and Kim "had candid and in-depth discussions on the pending issues between the DPRK (North Korea) and the U.S. in a sincere atmosphere."

The two reporters, Euna Lee, 36, and Laura Ling, 32, who work for Current TV, an American TV outlet cofounded by Clinton's vice president, Al Gore, had been sentenced to 12 years

conveyed to Kim Jong Il an earnest request of the U.S. government to leniently pardon them and send them back home from a humanitarian point of view," KCNA said. It said the visit would "contribute to deepening the understanding between North Korea and the U.S.'

hard labour for illegally entering the North and com-

mitting "grave crimes."

"The families of Laura Ling and Euna Lee are overjoyed by the news of their pardon," said a statement posted on a Web site created to support the two journalists.

Clinton, husband of Secretary of State Hillary Clinton, was the highest-level American to visit the reclusive communist state since his secretary of state, Madeleine Albright, went there in 2000.

His trouble-shooting mission coincided with intense speculation over succession in Asia's only communist dynasty. Several reports suggest an increasingly fraillooking Kim, 67, has settled on his third son to take over.

It also comes as relations between Washington and Pyongyang have turned even worse after the North's nuclear test on May 25. which was met by U.S.-led international sanctions.

It was the second time a former U.S. president had traveled to North Korea to try to defuse a crisis. Jimmy Carter flew there in 1994 when tensions were running high, again over the North's nuclear program.

### break up pants protest

TRIAL Police used teargas to disperse protesters rallying in support of a Sudanese woman facing 40 lashes for wearing trousers in public yesterday, a case that has become a public test of Sudan's indecency laws.

Lubna Hussein, a former journalist and UN press offi-cer, was arrested with 12 other women during a party at a Khartoum restaurant in Iuly and charged with being indecently dressed.

Women's groups have complained the law gives no clear definition of indecent dress, leaving the decision of whether to arrest a woman up to individual police officers. Dozens of men and women gathered outside a Khartoum court room where Hussein appeared yesterday, carrying banners with the message "No return to the dark ages" and "Lubna's case is a case for all Sudanese women." REUTERS

### At least five dead in gym shooting

PENNSYLVANIA At least five people, including the gunman, were shot and killed during a shooting spree at a fitness centre near Pittsburgh, according to media reports last night.

The Pittsburgh Post-Gazette reported on its website that a man with a duffel bag walked into an

L.A. Fitness Center in Collier township and began

CNN quoted a local official as saying five people were killed and up to another 15 wounded.

The shooter was among the dead, Collier township manager Gary Vituccio told the network. REUTERS

### **News** in brief

TERROR Australian police arrested four men they said were linked to a Somali militant group vesterday, accusing them of planning a suicide attack on an army base and raising fears the al-Qaida-linked rebels were seeking targets outside Africa. The four were seized in dawn raids on 19 properties across Melbourne following a sevenmonth investigation involving several forces and Australia's national security agency. FOOD India has asked UNICEF to stop distributing millions of

dollars worth of nutrition aid to children, saying it had been done without permission and at the expense of local food to fight hunger. The Ministry for Women and Child Development said UNICEF had

not informed the government about importing \$2.4 million worth of food in 2008 and said the money could have been spent elsewhere.

### Washington Happy Birthday, Mr. President



Climate change activists wear party hats alongside a giant mask featuring U.S. President Barack Obama on the occasion of his 48th birthday yesterday in Washington. The protesters "celebrated" by symbolically presenting a giant plane ticket for him to attend the December UN climate change conference in Denmark.







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## Comment & Views

Comment

### **Ode to Tommy Douglas**

### Ex-Saskatchewan premier fought for universal health care



Barack Obama tries to bring universal health care to the U.S.A. and "Brooks the Brothers Brigade" tries to everything in its power to stop him, let's take a quiet moment and give thanks to (fill in the deity of your choice) for medicare.

More than back bacon and our legendary tendency to go "eh?" it's what makes us Canadian.

In fact, we should erect a statue to Tommy Douglas, the Father of Medicare, right on the lawn of Parliament Hill I'm sure we can warehouse a couple statues of Queen Victoria to make

I suspect that many of you reading this today born in the 1970s, '80s or '90s have no idea who Tommy Douglas was. A little background: He was the premier of Saskatchewan who fought off the fiercely focused efforts of the medical lobby and a doctor's strike to get universal health care adopted in Saskatchewan. back in 1962. Four years later, Ottawa, under Lester Pearson (another statue, please), followed suit.

And now, when you're sick, you can time for surgery and other medical proget health care without being ruined, even news: if you have "prior **q** condition," 47 unlike million Americans. It's why we're careful Tommy Douglas

when we go shopping for cheese across the border. We might break a leg and won't be able to crawl back to health care and safety.

I know, I know. There's a lot wrong with the system as currently constituted. The Fraser Institute (our own version of the Brooks Brothers Brigade) estimates health care will consume 100 per cent of provincial revenues by the year 2050 (it takes up more than half now), and the average wait

> cedures is 17 weeks. The good That's down from 18 weeks in 2007. And we all have stories of being stacked up in a hospital corridor or getting

treated in a broom closet while waiting for a bed. Inevitably, we're looking at a two-tier system where those who can will pay for preferential treatment, while the rest of us limp into the lineup.

Implementing a version of that two-tier system in America will cost \$1 trillion. But it's necessary now more than ever as increased unemployment brings increased loss of benefits.

It's funny. I remember Tommy Douglas as a little man with thick glasses and an annoying, adenoidal speaking style that would cause me to change channels if there was more than one, which, in 1962, there wasn't. But without that adenoidal little man, we'd all be up Meech Lake without a paddle.

Cue the statue.

Paul Sullivan is a Vancouver-based journalist and owner of Sullivan Media Consulting; vancouverletters@metronews.ca.

**Rachel Hay** 

do think

Yaletown, B.C.

we're on the

road to recovery.

A lot of compa-

nies are starting

to hire again and

# BEFORE A NAME CHANGE: AFTER A NAME CHANGE:

### **Worth mentioning**

### WHO maintains 2 billion estimate for H1N1 cases

people had died from H1N1,

laboratory-confirmed cases,

134,503 — a figure well below the likely real total of

infections that may already

be in the millions, according

while the total number of

including deaths, was

to health experts.

The World Health Organization stuck to its statement yesterday that about two billion people could

catch the influenza (H1N1) virus, also known as swine flu, by the time the The WHO's latest update on pandemic July 27 said a total of 816

ends. But the estimate comes with a warning: No one knows how many people so far have caught the strain

and the final number will never be known as many cases are so mild they may go unnoticed.

'By the end of a pandemic, anywhere between 15 to 45 per cent of a population will have been infected by

the new pandemic virus," spokeswoman Aphaluck Bhatiasevi said. "Thirty per cent is a mid-

point estimate and 30 per cent of the world's population is two billion."

she "We added: must remember, however, that attempts to estimate infection rates can only be very rough."

Early in the outbreak,

which was first detected in April, Dr Keiji Fukuda, acting assistant director-general of the UN agency, fuelled accusations the WHO was creating panic about the disease when he used the two billion figure.

### Word on the street: There have been conflicting opinions about whether or not the recession is over. Do you think we're on the road to recovery?

### Terrence **Emmanuel**

age 33, Toronto

A: I think we may be on the road, but it looks like it's going to be a very long road. The media is saying the economy is improving, but I'm not sure I believe that yet.

#### Melanie **Keast** age 33.

New Brunswick

A: I don't think we're over it yet. As Canadians I think we really need to keep track of how we spend and how live, and learn to be smart

### **Jesse Brady**

age 32, Ottawa

A: I think that while the stock market may be showing some increased gains, jobs are still continuing to be lost across the country. I don't think we're going to recover anytime

### **Andrea Ewer**

age 22, Halifax

A: I haven't noticed any difference in my own personal life — I haven't noticed any up or down.

### **Brian** Ball

age 23, Calgary

I heard about the deficit change in Alberta from \$4 billion to \$7 billion. That doesn't sound like we are on





### **Metro Online Poll Results**



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#### PepsiCo deals welcome windfall for investors

PepsiCo Inc. won over its two largest bottlers by raising its takeover offers more than 20 per cent to \$7.8 billion, giving investors a welcomed but not unexpected windfall. REUTERS

## Business

### Ford on top in July

47% jump defies industry's 9-month slide

Ford has stunned the Canadian auto industry again by selling the most vehicles for the second consecutive month.

Showing that its run to the top of the market in June for the first time in 60 years was no fluke, Ford reported yesterday sales shot up a startling 47 per cent in July from the same month a year earlier.

Hyundai, whose soared 37 per cent, joined Ford among the few posting big gains in July as the overall market dropped 6.4

### July sales for major automakers

Ford Motor Co.: 26,788 units sold — up 47.4 per cent General Motors: 19,663 units sold — down 41.9 per cent Toyota: 19.232 units sold down 12.5 per cent

per cent or almost 10,000 vehicles to 139,901.

It marked the ninth consecutive month that sales have dropped in Canada despite continuing incentives. But the decline is the smallest one during the peChrysler: 15,958 units sold down 10.4 per cent Honda: 13,984 units sold up 12.5 per cent Hyundai: 10.488 units sold up 37.8 per cent

riod and is fuelling hopes that the industry could be pulling out of a downturn. Sales for the first seven months of the year are still down 16.6 per cent to almost 861,000.

TORSTAR NEWS SERVICES

### India BlackBerry launch



Frenny Bawa, left, vice-president of Research In Motion's India operations, and Raghunath Mandava, chief marketing officer of Airtel, hold BlackBerry Curve 8520 smartphones during its launch in New Delhi yesterday.

### Spending in U.S. rises in June

**STATISTICS** U.S. consumers spent more in June and pending sales of previously owned homes also rose, daissued yesterday showed, but the biggest drop in incomes in fourand-a-half years pointed to a slow recovery from the worst recession in decades.

Spending rose 0.4 per cent in June after a 0.1 per cent gain the previous month, the Commerce Department said, partly be-cause of higher gasoline prices. But after adjusting for inflation, spending, which accounts for over two-thirds of U.S. economic activity, fell 0.1 per cent after being flat in May. Savings slipped from a rising trend as consumers had to

dig deeper to spend.
"As we turn the corner on this recession, we find the economy stabilizing but definitely not resurging. We're going to see fairly soft economic numbers for some time," said Pittsburgh economist Robert REUTERS

### Nortel enterprise sale OK'd by U.S., Canadian courts

communications Bankrupt Nortel Networks received U.S. and Canadian court approval yesterday to sell its enterprise business. further dismantling the company.

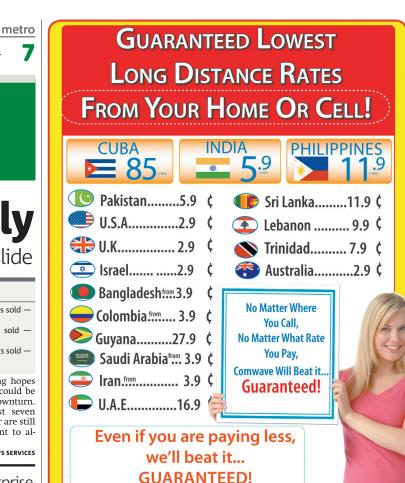
Nortel, based in Toronto, said it reached a "stalk-ing horse" deal to sell the enterprise business, which makes networks for companies, to Avaya Inc. for \$475 million US after considering four potential bids. The agreement will set the floor for bidding in an auction, approved by courts in Delaware and Ontario through joint video-linked hearings.

Nortel had resolved 10 objections to the proposed bidding procedures, including those from potential bidders, Nortel's lead U.S. attorney said at yesterday's hearing.

The company filed for bankruptcy protection in Canada and the U.S. in Jan-

### **Business** in brief

CASINOS Real estate tycoon Donald Trump and an affiliate of Bank of Nevada will buy Trump Entertainment Resorts for \$100 million US, the bankrupt casino operator said. Trump and Bank of Nevada's BNAC affiliate will own the privately held company. Trump, the group's founder and onetime chairman, resigned in February when bondholders demanded a Chapter 11 filing. The deal needs approval from a bankruptcy court.





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DeAndra' Cobb, rookie running back of the Hamiltion Tiger-Cats was named the CFL's offensive player of the week yesterday. Hamilton linebacker Jamall Johnson took home the defensive award, Arkee Whitlock of the Edmonton Eskimos was named special-teams player of the week and Saskatchewan Roughniders slotback Chris Getzalf was top Canadian. METRO NEWS SERVICES

## Sports



### **Zherdev a free agent**

\$650,000 more than the \$3.25-million qualifying offer tabled by the Rangers. Zherdev, 24, appeared in 82 games with the Rangers last season, recording 23 goals and 35 assists with 39 penalty minutes.

### Ruling unlikely to end battle | F1 coming back to

No matter what judge decides, legal struggle over Coyotes expected to continue

The NHL. Jim Balsillie. various bidders, creditors and other interested parties with a stake in the **Phoenix Coyotes are** today waiting for a ruling from bankruptcy judge Redfield T. Baum, hoping to get some sense of the hockey club's future.

The only sure bet is that, whatever the judge rules. someone is going to be severely ticked off.

Baum is expected to hand down a decision on how the Sept. 10 auction of the Coyotes will be conducted, including whether Canadian billionaire Balsillie will be allowed to participate or whether it will be restricted to the two bidders who intend, after reworking the team's arena lease, to keep the team in the Phoenix suburb of Glendale.

Balsillie, of course, wants to move the team to Hamilton and is pursuing his purchase of the team even though he has been unanimously rejected by the NHL's governors as a potential owner.

But don't expect today's ruling to be definitive or for it to end the soap-opera-like drama that has surrounded

the Coyotes bankruptcy. Even Baum himself conceded that however the auction unfolds, it will likely be followed by endless litigation.

case has been This steeped in angry rhetoric and finger pointing. Even yesterday, reacting to confidential information that was leaked on Friday - details of the concessions Jer-

ry Reinsdorf was seeking from Glendale in his bid -Baum ordered Jerry Moyes, owner of the Coyotes, to show why he should not be held in contempt of court. Baum ordered Moves, his

wife, Vicki, and their attorneys to appear at a showcause hearing today after they allegedly violated a confidentiality order.

TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

### Draw ends TFC hopes

#### SOCCER

### Puerto Rico 0, Toronto 0

Toronto FC's first foray into international competition is over.

A scoreless draw in Puerto Rico last night in the second leg of a two-game preliminary round in the CONCACAF Champions League gave the Islanders a 1-0 win on aggregate.

TFC, which advanced into the competition by virtue of winning the Canadian championship dominated the second half of the game but couldn't

TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

### Baseball Tough night for Halladay



Toronto Blue Jays starting pitcher Roy Halladay, centre, sits on the bench after giving up back-to-back home runs to the New York Yankees in the eighth inning last night in Toronto. The Yankees won 5-3.

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### Cheerleading a leading cause of catastrophic injuries: Study

RESEARCHERS Cheerleading is not all pom-poms and glitter with a U.S. study finding that most catastrophic sports injuries among high school and college athletes occurred on the sidelines of the big games.

Researchers from the National Children's Hospital in Columbus, Ohio, found that schoolchildren these days were more likely to get hurt in gym class than

they were a decade ago.

The study was based on data from the U.S. Consumer Products Safety National Commission's Electronic Injury Surveillance System, which tracks sports and recreation-related injuries treated at a sample of 100 U.S. hospital emergency departments.

Figures showed that the

number of injuries had jumped 150 per cent in 2007 to 62,408 from an estimated 24,347 physical edu-cation-related injuries in 1997, with the increase seen for both boys and girls and across all age groups.

Six sports accounted for 70 per cent of injuries running, basketball, foot-ball, volleyball, soccer, and gymnastics.

But cheerleading was found to be the leading cause of catastrophic in-juries — those usually involving spinal cord damage - among high school and college athletes.

High school cheerleading accounted for about 73 such injuries, according to the report by The National Center for Catastrophic Sports Injury Research.

### Montreal: **Ecclestone**

**GRAND PRIX** For the first time since he pulled the extremely popular Canadian Grand Prix from the Formula One schedule due to a dispute over financial terms with its organizers, Bernie Ecclestone, the head of F1, says it's coming back to Montreal.

Ecclestone's comments were published yesterday in the European racing magazine Motorsport Ak-

"In 2010, we will return to Canada," Ecclestone said. "I know everyone in Formula One loves this Grand Prix.

Reaction has varied from hope to cautious optimism in Montreal, where the tourism industry has suffered considerably with

no F1 this year. The City of Montreal is not commenting on ongoing negotiations but noted that the three levels of government, including Ottawa and Quebec, have not increased the money they committed last fall to keep the Grand Prix in Montreal money Ecclestone considered insufficient at the time.

"The three levels of government are sticking to that offer," said Darren Becker, a spokesperson for Montreal mayor Gérald Tremblay.

"Yes, we want to see the Grand Prix return, but not at any price."

TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

### **Sports** in brief

NHL The Ottawa Senators yesterday rewarded Brian Elliott for his stellar rookie campaign, signing the goaltender to a two-year contract. The 24-yearold played in 31 games for the Senators last year, compiling a record of 16-8-3, a 2.77 goalsagainst-average and a .902 save percentage. NHL Vancouver Canucks president and CEO Chris

Zimmerman has decided to step down from those positions, citing family reasons, General manager Mike Gillis will take over the president reins from Zimmerman, who served on the post for three years.

METRO NEWS SERVICES

In the coming weeks Metro's Workology section will be focusing on the part of the entertainment industry that you DON'T see. Backstage Pass will put the spotlight on careers behind the camera and the curtain. So be sure to read Workology and metronews.ca/work every day

## Workology

### Women's softball at SFU

Simon Fraser University held a sod-turning ceremony yesterday for a playing field for its women's softball team, which has been without a home field since its inception in 1990. The project is being funded by a \$500,000 donation from the Keith and Betty Beedie Foundation to SFU Athletics' Bring Our Teams Home

### A playwright's tale

### Writing for the stage can be a hard and lonely business



JON TATTRIE for Metro Canada

The process of getting a play out of the writer's head and onto the stage is a long and winding one. Governor General Award-winning playwright Catherine Banks wrote her first play in 1983. She learned a lot from the process, but it never saw the light of stage; her first performed play came in 1991.

"I started writing that

play the week I brought my newborn daughter home from (the hospital) and it was produced the year she entered pri-mary," the Nova Scotian playwright says of The Summer of the Piping Plover. "It felt really won-derful when that play opened because I had learned I could do it."

Playwriting can be a hard, lonely business, with no guarantee your work will ever be performed. Banks' big breakthrough came last year, when Bone Cage won the coveted GG.

"It was validation shot through with joy!" she

Getting a play performed can be an arduous process. She had to secure funding from government agencies and sink a lot of her own cash into Bone Cage. By then, Banks was fully committed to the play's darkly humorous story of Jamie and Chicky growing up in rural Nova

"Why would any character ever come to me again if I didn't see the characters of Bone Cage all the way to the stage?" she wonders.

Once a company picks up a play, there's the tricky process of turning a playwright's imagination into reality.

"Even when I set out to write a play that will be easily produced, in the course of writing the play it takes me to a place where I have to make a decision: Will I or won't I allow the play to take me where it needs to go?" Banks says. Can theatre companies afford to stage it? Are there too many/too few roles? Are the technical requirements possi-ble?

"Only once have I made a concession to make a play 'more producible;' I reduced the script by one actor. In the end, I had to produce the play myself anyway and now I have a play with a ghost," she



Creating a play demands imagination, deep pockets and a full commitment to the story, playwright Catherine Banks says.

laments.

After studying acting at university, Banks honed her skills at local writing workshops. Many insti-tutes such as Dalhousie University offer courses on playwriting as part of theatre programs. UBC offers an MFA in creative

writing and theatre (playwriting) and students at Concordia can major in playwriting.

Backstage Pass exclusive series check Workology frequently or stop by:

### Contracts not mandatory



t's possibly the worst fraud in workplace law corporations, with expensive lawyers and deeper pockets, requiring their employees to sign one-sided employment con-tracts that reduce their legal And employees, without bargaining power or an understanding of the law, not realizing their interests have been under-

What most people don't understand is that a written employment contract is not a requirement of employment. This is because the law implies a number of essential terms and conditions, such as termination, fair treatment and duration among others, and it does so whether or not they are written down. However, as many of those implied terms are considered too employee-generous, most companies insist that employees sign contracts that reduce those implied rights. Employees then unknowingly agree to be eliminated with minimum notice, deslashed and prevented from competition following their departure — all with legal impunity.

misunderstand. Employees are not entirely without recourse Supreme Court has recognized the unique nature of the employment contract and the inherent power imbalance when negotiating terms. As a result, judges have created various devices to prevent unfairness. If the contract is ambiguous, illegal, provides less than employment standards legislation or is entered into under duress or coercion, it may

While these devices provide a level of protection, they still ignore some fundamental truths. First, employees seldom negotiate contracts and if they do, it's rarely on equal footing. Either they fear the job offer will be withdrawn and offered to a competitor or they are simply told the language will not be changed. In today's job market, their fears are not unfounded. Employers, then, usually have their way.

Daniel A. Lublin is an employment lawyer focusing on the law of dismissal; dan@canadaemploymentlawyer.com.

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If left inside a vehicle during a hot, summer day, babies can become distressed in just five minutes, and in less than 40 minutes, a child or pet could suffer severe dehydration or heat stroke. **SOURCE: B.C. AUTOMOBILE ASSOCIATION** 

## Metro Drive

### Kizashi coming

Suzuki recently debuted the 2010 Kizashi, the company's first entry into the all-wheel drive sport sedan segment. The flagship model arrives in North America this winter.

EDITOD: KIIMAD SAHA KIIMAD SAHA@METDONEWS CA

### VW Eos: Hello sunshine

Weekend trips made easy with roomy convertible

JIL MCINTOSH for Metro Canada

There really aren't any bad convertibles on a sunny day, but some are better than others, and the Volkswagen Eos is a very good one.

At a base price of \$35,975, it isn't cheap. But it holds four people, and its retractable hardtop (no soft roof is available) means it can comfortably handle winter weather as well.

Based on the Rabbit platform, the Eos uses a 200-horsepower turbocharged 2.0-litre four-cylinder engine, with a six-speed manual or optional six-speed Direct Shift Gearbox (DSG) in Trendline or Comfortline trim. My top-line Silver-Red Edition tester comes only with the DSG, and starts at \$44,575.

The DSG, also called a dual-clutch, is probably one of the best developments since transmissions first learned to shift themselves. It contains two gearboxes with clutches between them, one with even-numbered gears, the other with odd-numbered. As soon as you're in first gear, the other side has second gear ready, so the shifts are almost immediate. Once that's done, third gear gets ready, and so on. These transmissions are silky-smooth and all but seamless, along with increased fuel economy.

The retractable roof puts on quite a show when it operates, although it's so complicated that I'd think about an extended warranty for long-term ownership. Unusually, it includes an integrated sunroof,



### 2009 Volkswagen Eos

Type: Sports convertible
Price: from \$35,975
Engine: 2L four-cylinder
turbocharged
HP: 200

### Highlights

- Hold four people
- Dual-clutch technology ensures smooth shifting
   Functional interior

which can be slid open when the top is up.

The roof folds into the trunk, and there's enough space when it's down that you can stow luggage for a weekend trip. The rear seat includes a pass-through for longer items such as skis.

The Eos is great to drive: power comes on smoothly, torque steer is well-managed, handling is accurate and the steering is nicely weighted. Even when the top is down, it feels confidently solid and tight, with no rattles or cowl shake.

Volkswagen seats aren't cushy, which leads some to question their comfort; the secret is in the support they provide. Spend any length of time in the Eos' front seats and you'll understand. The rear seat provides more headroom than expected with the roof up, but it's a chore to squeeze back there, and the chairs are narrow.

Interior materials are good-quality and precisely fitted, with just enough metallic trim to look good but not garish. Big dials and simple controls make it easy to make adjustments with little time spent looking away from



Interior materials are good-quality and precisely fitted, with just enough metallic trim to look good but not garish.

the road, and the two upper trims include dualzone automatic climate control that you can set once and then forget.

All models include such features as A/C, cruise control, automatic locks, side airbags, rollover protection system, anti-lock

brakes and electronic stability control.

Compared with other retractable hardtops on the market, it's probably the best bet for the price, offering the fun of a topless car with all-weather ability. Drop that roof, and let the sun shine in.



2010 Acura RDX.

### 2010 Acura RDX ready to go on sale

NEW MODEL The 2010 Acura RDX goes on sale across Canada next week with a fresh new exterior look, a more luxurious interior, new technology features and improved fuel econo-

Externally, the CUV receives numerous changes resulting in a more aggressive, sporty appearance. RDX exterior styling further emphasizes the crossover's sporty athleticism. Large wheel arches, aggressively raked body sides, steeply raked windscreen and a short rear overhang generate a taut and muscular presence.

RDX also gets a new front fascia, Acura's signature front grille, a hood with a new front edge design and updated HID headlights.

The RDX receives several new standard interior features, including a rear view camera system, electronic compass, a pull handle to make closing the rear hatch easier, auto-function headlights, a centre console storage tray and USB-port connectivity. METRO NEWS SERVICES



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## Education

### Adult learners in demand

ROBYN YOUNG for Metro Canada

From jewelry-making to project management, continuing education programs across the country have a lot to offer.

Academic institutions are stepping up their game in the continuing education department in response to overwhelming demand for professional and personal growth programs.

At the University of Ottawa, there's been a 15 per cent increase in demand for continuing education

programs, says Serge Blais, director of continuing education for the school.

The majority of their learners are government employees.

They're trying to keep their skills above par," he said.

Some of the more popular programs are those dealing with project management or presentation skills, where students learn how to effectively facilitate meetings, manage interdisciplinary and do voice training.

While soft skills like these are gaining in popularity in these tough economic times, more technical skills are also gaining

One of the high-demand certificates at Dalhousie University's College of Continuing Éducation in Halifax is the certification program in Home Inspection.

"It started last year and it's been growing in popularity every semester," said Robert Moffatt, marketing manager for the college.

The certificate involves 10 modules that are 42 hours and cost \$530 each.

The increasingly competitive job market is respon-

sible for the boom in continued learning, said Jim Fremlin, co-ordinator at a Toronto employment re-

source centre.

An interest in lifelong learning looks good on any resumé, he added.

"That's a good indicator of an engaged person and someone who's going to be an engaged employee,' said Fremlin, co-ordinator of the Parliament Street Employment Resource Centre with the Centre for Training and Education.

For professional development, soft skills programs like the new certificate in

Leadership Performance at Dalhousie are in demand.

The certificate includes courses on communication, mediation and presentation skills.

"It's the nuts and bolts of keeping an organization moving forward," said program Williams. director

Fremlin said although employers like to see continued learning specifically related to a job, any demonstrated interest in lifelong learning, including personal growth courses, can give an employee the edge they need when applying for jobs or interviewing for them.



An interest in learning looks good on a resumé, experts say.

### pportunities to study art in Ottawa quickly expandi

MJ DESCHAMPS

Home to Canada's Parliament, it is no secret that Ottawa is better known for its government than its arts scene.

With the lowest municipal arts funding per capita of any major city in Canada, Ottawa has traditionally struggled in the cultural

For those more interested

in painting than politics however, don't worry just yet — Ottawa's opportunities for aspiring artists seem to be growing.

The Shenkman Arts Centre in Orleans started the year with a bang for the arts community of Ottawa east when it opened its doors in January

"Looking back in history, the industry of arts and culture has been largely underserviced in Gloucester and Orleans," said Karen Scott-

communications specialist at Shenkman.

She said Francophones that live in the community had been suffering especially, since they would traditionally have to go over to Québec for French instruction courses in art.

Today, the community has at their fingertips the largest and most diverse facility for arts education in the city.

"Arts and cultural programming do a lot to support the health and development of a community," said Scott-Gagné.

The Shenkman Arts Centre has a variety of resident partners that will offer more than 300 courses and workshops this fall. The Gloucester Pottery School has classes for both kids and adults, OYP Theatre School has both introductory and specialized theatre classes, The City of Ottawa is putting on dance, digital arts and music classes, and

The Ottawa School of Art is offering everything from drawing to painting to woodworking.

The Ottawa School of Art's main ByWard Market Campus is another great place to get started in the fine arts. For 130 years, the Ottawa School of Art has been the prime educational centre for the visual arts. They have fine arts diploma programs for those pursuing careers in art, but also offer a variety of general in-

Some of the school's most popular workshops include ones on painting, sculpture, ceramics and photography. The school also has the only public printmaking studio in eastern Ontario.

There's a lot of people pushing to make arts more accessible in Ottawa, and it really seems to be working," said Amy Lynch, marketing and events co-ordinator at the Ottawa School of



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### Distance education a hit with busy adults

RICHARD WOODBURY for Metro Canada



Online and distance learning in continuing education have become a part of everyday life.

"It's become main-stream," says Kevin Nagel, the dean of the JR Shaw School of Business at the Northern Alberta Institute of Technology in Edmonton. One of the big reasons is convenience.

"(That) has a lot to do with it," says Chris Beckett, the co-ordinator of instructional television at Mount Saint Vincent University in Halifax.

"People are busier and busier," he says, noting it can be tough to fit learning into one's schedule while balancing a career, family and other responsibilities.

The convenience factor also means students can study from some unlikely spots. Beckett says one former student who was a member of the Armed Forces took an accounting exam in a submarine from the bottom of the Atlantic Ocean.

The lack of geographical boundaries allows schools to connect with potential students worldwide.

"To be competitive you have to give the learner a choice," wrote Janet Welch from Red Deer College in an email. "Education used to be regionally based. It is not anymore. It is truly global." Welch is the chairperson/curriculum designer of the school's centre for teaching and learning.

But the growth in online and distance learning hasn't come at the expense of traditional enrolment, says Mark Bullen, the associate dean of the learning and teaching centre at the British Columbia Institute

of Technology in Burnaby. "It's definitely complementary. Online courses don't compete with the face-to-face courses.'

But it's not for every-body, cautions Bullen. It requires individuals to be self-motivated and mature.

It may come as a surprise, but the interaction students have can be greater than they would experience in a regular classroom setting.

"In a well-designed online course, students will often find that they get much more one on one



Students like the convenience of online learning, experts say

support and interaction with their instructor than they do in a face-to-face class," says Bullen.

This differs from classes in lecture halls where "it's very difficult to actually have any kind of meaningful interaction with your instructor," he says.

Whether online or in the classroom, one thing remains the same.

"You have to do the work," says Beckett. "You have to read. You have to research. You have to do the writing. You have to take the exam. None of that has changed."

### Updated credentials can mean a leg up on the competition

MJ DESCHAMPS for Metro Ottawa



In today's fast-paced, everchanging job market. where competitive pressure has broken down the idea of a lifelong-employment contract and job security, it's important for employees to realize that their current qualifications aren't necessarily static.

Even if you've been working at the same 9-to-5 job for 10 years, it's still a good idea to update your resumé every so often with skill-building or educational credentials in order to keep a

leg up on the competition. That's why the University of Ottawa has made it a focus over the past few years to emphasize and promote their wide variety of continuing education programs for adult learners.

"More and more jobs today are requiring university training, so people who have been working the same job for a long time without a degree often desire to brush up on their skills and training to keep up (with the market)," said Serge Blais, director for the Centre for Continuing Education at the University of Ottawa.

The Centre for Continuing Education develops and offers non-credited courses for both personal interest and several images often come to mind professional development.

This fall, close to 400 courses in professional development will be offered along with 50 general inworkshops range from a series on Buddhist meditation to Canadian prime ministers to touring Ottawa cemeteries.

Blais said that although the centre had been worried at the beginning of the vear that attendance may slide due to the economic recession, they are already seeing a 15 per cent in-crease in fall registration from this time last year.

"With the economic downturn, it seems that people now more than ever want to hone in on skill-building and be able to have that crucial advantage in the room," he said. interview

Although many of the courses are offered on the University of Ottawa campus, a lot of them are being held on sites linked to the workshop topic, and are increasingly coming into workplaces to cater to specific groups of employees.

### Here's a career choice you can bank on.

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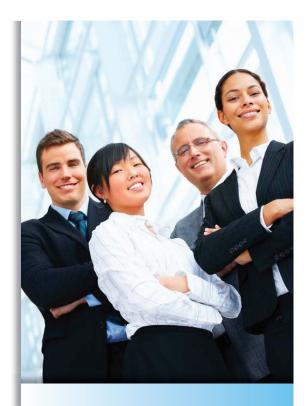
"The knowledge that I've gained from the Ontario Institute of PMAC's accreditation program has aided me in transitionina from my (introductory) role to a Procurement Manager position. looking after seven offices throughout North America, and finally into my current position as a Strategic Sourcing Specialist for one of the largest Enterprise Retailers in Canada."

**Douglas Stacev Strategic Sourcing Specialist** 

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If they were looking for a new home, 85 per cent of Canadians say a tidy garage would be a deciding factor. An organized garage not only increases the value of your home, it also provides insight to how the rest of your home is maintained. NEWS CANADA

## Reno Rebate



If your contractor tells you he requires payment in full before starting work, that should raise alarm bells for you. The Canadian Home Builders Association recommends a prepayment of 10 to 15 per cent of the total price. HGTV.CA



If fixing a small scratch, sand the area before repainting it.

### Clean up scuffed walls

A busy household often means scuffed walls and scratched corners. No matter how big or small the nicks, the Home Depot has the know-how to help you fix your walls in five steps or less.

#### A SMALL SCRATCH

**Step 1:** Apply a layer of primer to the scratched area and let dry.

Step 2: Sand the area to make sure the surface is flat and even.

**Step 3:** Repaint the section to match the rest of the

### A BIGGER DENT

Step 1: Use a drywall knife to apply drywall compound to the dented area. (Drywall compound comes pre-mixed and ready-to-use.)

Step 2: Once dry, sand down any excess drywall so that it is flush with the

Step 3: Prime. Step 4: Paint.

### PEELING PAINT

Step 1: Scrape away loose paint with a putty knife or

paint scraper. **Step 2:** Apply spackling compound to the edges of the chipped paint with a putty knife or flexible wallboard knife and let

**Step 3:** Sand the patched areas until they are smooth to the touch with no edges.

Step 4: Repaint these sections to match the rest of your wall.

Once the nicks and scuffs are gone for good, why not refresh the entire room with a new coat of paint? Not only is it a great way to easily refresh a room, it can also be a budget-friendly D-I-Y proj-

To learn how to paint a room for under \$99 or to find out more about D-I-Y projects for every skill level, visit homedepot.ca.

NEWS CANADA

### Go green with new floors

#### One of the defining characteristics of any home is the floor.

Like a favourite shirt or a hairstyle, the right floor for the right home can be a great complement to the personality of the home and homeowner alike. Fortunately, getting a decent floor doesn't mean putting a dent in the environment.

"A lot of people are into going green, even when it comes to floors," said Cheryl Breger, retail sales manager for Westboro Flooring and Decor Inc.

"Mohawk and Shaw carpet have both come out with a green natural product. Mohawk is made from corn oil, and Shaw makes floors out of recycled plastic and pop bottles. Wool is also very popular too.

"Eco-friendly floors are also of equal value," said Breger. "The bonus is that they aren't going to sit on the heap forever. It's great that they get reused. There's a new nylon called 66 nylon that can be reused and reused."

When choosing a new floor, it's also important to take a long look at your lifestyle, and choose a floor accordingly.

**About the HRTC** 

The Home Renovation Tax

Credit of up to \$1,350 applies

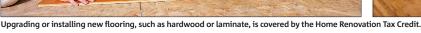
to alterations "of an enduring

nature and integral to the

dwelling," meaning anything

that is nailed down or would-





"The first thing is to establish a lifestyle," said Breger. "I ask if they have kids or pets. I ask if they want a formal or a casual setting.

Maintaining the floor is also really important to make the most of the investment. Carpets should be vacuumed twice a week, and have a hot water extrusion once a year.

In this regard, hardwood is easier to maintain, but can be easily damaged by pet claws or children's toys.

Of course, like many other home renovation projects, upgrading or installing new flooring is covered by the federal government's Home Ren-

n't get transported away.

tures of more than \$1,000.

/fghmrnvtn-eng.html.

The HRTC eligible expendi-

cra-arc.gc.ca/gncy/bdgt/2009

For more, log on to

### "Eco-friendly floors are also of equal value."

Cheryl Breger

ovation Tax Credit.

Trends being what they are, hardwood is usually the most popular type of flooring.

"If someone is selling a house, (hardwood) brings up the value of the home. A lot of people also love the look. It's very easy going and easy to maintain," said Breger.

If carpet is more up your alley, there are several options available, with many different types to suit any taste and need. Even a hardwood home can become a little more welcoming with an area rug put over a high-traffic area.

For those whose tastes are stuck firmly in the '70s, Breger has some good news: "Shag carpeting has definitely made a come-back," she said.



Weekend Masons is a group of independent, highly skilled bricklayers and stonemasons that work for themselves on weekends. We have regular 40 hours/week jobs, building on our city's major projects: hospitals, schools, water treatment plants, hotels and residential homes. On weekends we offer our skills to the greater

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iLounge.com notes that Apple has added a new Travel Guide section to the iTunes Store. "Found on the right-hand side of the main iTunes storefront under More In Music, (it) offers links to destination applications, podcasts, audiobooks" and lots more. METRO NEWS SERVICES

### Standing room

According to the International Airline Passengers Association (IAPA), "at least two very low-cost carriers are entertaining the idea of transporting passengers in an upright manner—standing up! ... Spring Air, China's self-proclaimed first low-cost carrier is looking for permission from regulators to install 'standing seats' that would cost less than traditional seats... (and Ryanair) is looking to Boeing for a design that would permit stools or railings for passengers to be strapped to." See iapa.com for more details.

### Syria flaunts its hidden treasures

### Trove of historical landmarks awaits Western tourists

Iranian pilgrims pray beside Arabs at the 8th century Umayyad Mosque, one of Islam's grandest sites. Down a nearby alley, European tourists watch restoration work at an Ottoman-era palace being converted into a hotel.

"I've not seen such contrast between image and the reality," said German tourist Anna Kopola, looking at Syrian art on dis-play in a gallery in the capital, Damascus. "Syria is portrayed as a centre of terrorism in the West but it's peaceful and modern."

While tourists have long travelled to see Egypt's pyramids, tense ties with the West made Syria a nogo zone for decades.

Few have heard of the magnificent ruins at Dura Europos, a Greco-Roman city dubbed the Pompeii of the desert, or Krak des Chevaliers, among the world's greatest Crusader castles.

But a rapprochement with the West — Syria recently invited U.S. President Barack Obama to Damascus for talks - and the gradual liberalization of an economy that long shunned foreign input are helping Syria shed its pari-





Western tourists visit the Ottoman-era Takiyah Suleimanieh mosque complex in Damascus. Right, the ruins of Palmyra.

ah state image. "Nicolas Sarkozy's visit last year was a boost," Antoine Mamarbachi, a tour operator said of the French president. "Syria is no longer a persona non

Tourist numbers rose 15 per cent last year and

Tourism Minister Saadallah Agha al-Qalaa expects 40,000 new hotel beds to become available in the next three years, up from 48.000 now

Demand has grown so fast, he said, that Syrian tourism may escape the impact of the global downturn that has hit the sector worldwide. Tourism already accounts for 13 per cent of Syria's gross domestic product and will only become more important as the Arab country's dwindling oil production falls further.

Syria has so far tended to attract visitors from other parts of the Middle who are less perturbed by its image and more interested in its beach resorts.

Two-thirds of visitors last year were Arab, but promotional campaigns "Few have heard of the magnificent ruins at Dura Europos, a Greco-Roman city dubbed the Pompeii of the desert, or Krak des Chevaliers, among the world's greatest crusader castles."

by the state and tour operators over the last year have targeted high-end Europeans.

As the East-West crossroads of the ancient world, Syria has been a trade hub for centuries, attracting European adventurers from Lawrence of Arabia to Freva Stark.

Dura Europos, the ruined walled city above the banks of the Euphrates, produced early examples of Judaic and Christian art. The Umayyad dynasty made Damascus the capital of a Muslim empire that stretched to Spain.

Travel at the iTunes Store

Read more on page 15

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According to the Daily Telegraph, the "best audio travel podcast of the year so far is iKangaroo's Angels and Demons walking tour of Rome, iKangaroo.com. City expert Chris Carriero guides you around the sights, art, architecture and history of the film's locations in seven episodes." METRO NEWS SERVICES





Syria's Krak des Chevaliers, a fortress that's among the world's great Crusader castles

>> Continued from page 14

Legend has it that two heads are buried beneath the Ummayad Mosque—those of John the Baptist and Imam Hussein, an early Islamic figure whose killing in 680 AD cemented Shi'ite-Sunni splits.

But Syria's modern history has been dominated by its struggle with Israel and Soviet-style policies since the Baath Party's 1963 coup that reduced it to an economic backwater.

The United States imposed sanctions on Syria in 2004 and the government faces two United Nations investigations, although tensions have eased in recent months and Washington said in June it would appoint an ambassador to Damascus after a four-year

"The business environment in Syria is still poorer than its neighbours, but this is a virgin market and the fact that so many investors are coming shows that the risk is worth taking," said Jihad Yazigi, editor of the Syria Report on-

line newsletter.

In the covered sougs of Old Damascus, Western tourists now shop for Syrian kilims and amble from the tomb of the Mamluk ruler Baibars to courtyard houses-turned-boutique hotels.

Gone are the days when a visitor could wander through the ruins of Palmyra, a classical city that rises like a mirage from the eastern desert, without encountering another soul.

"Syria needs to do more preservation. I was in Lebanon and the level of indiscriminate construction made me never want to go back," said Swiss tourist Roland Diethelm, who was having a drink on a hotel terrace overlooking the ruins at Palmyra.

Construction across Syria has been chaotic but investors are taking increasing care to preserve the character of Old Damascus and Aleppo, realizing that this is what many Europeans crave.

Opened a year ago, Beit Zaman hotel is a painstakingly restored 300-year-old courtyard house located on Damascus' Roman-era Straight Street, which is mentioned in the Bible. The hotel now hosts luxury tourists and special events.

"Our customers appreciate the restoration work we have done and the feel of Old Damascus," said Beit Zaman spokeswoman Solar Arissian. "It took some time, but we are seeing more competition and efforts to promote Syria that are attracting more tourists."

### Top cities to visit with children

Many cities can be overwhelming for young travellers, but some are as much fun for kids as grown-ups. Lonely Planet's Travel With Children guide lists the top cities to visit with kids.

1 Oaxaca, Mexico: This colourful Mexican city is pint-sized, charming and fun to explore on foot. A central plaza provides plenty of runaround space for kids and there's a vibrant market; visitmexico.com.

2 Istanbul: With its mosques, palaces, museums, bazaars, multicoloured carpets, food markets, Bosphorus cruises and sweet ap-

ple tea, children will be fascinated and enchanted at every turn; tourismturkey.org.

3 London: You could stay in London for a whole year and find interesting things to do with the children every day. In summer don't miss out on playing in the fount-

ains at Somerset House;

visitlondon.com.

Los Angeles: A good destination for teenagers — choose between the original Disneyland, Universal Studios and Santa Monica. There's heaps to see and do in this sprawling city; check out discoverlosangeles.com.

REUTER





## FLIGHT CENTRE Unbeatable

Airfares

**Hong Kong** 

Bangkok

\$275

+ taxes & fees \$394 Montego Bay \$299 Travel Aug 25 - Sep I/a + taxes & fees \$273 **Paris** \$344\* raris Fravel Sep II - Sep 18/ts + taxes & fees \$353 \$369 Amsterdam + taxes & fees \$397 \$378 + taxes & fees \$297 **Frankfurt** Las Vegas \$378 + taxes & fees \$119 \$381\* + taxes & fees \$279 Cancun \$398 + taxes & fees \$110 Vancouver \$451\* + taxes & fees \$311 Rome Travel Sep 27 - Oct 4/ts \$579 + taxes & fees \$293 Tokyo Travel Sept 15 - Sept 30/ua

### **USA** Holidays

FLORIDA FLY & DRIVE \$429

INCLUDES roundtrip airfare to Miami and 7-day car rental with unlimited mileage. Departs daily Aug 16/ggv/aa.

California Fly & Drive

ornia Fly & Drive \$52

INCLUDES airfare to San Diego, return from San Francisco and 7-day car rental with unlimited mileage to explore at your own pace. Package can operate in reverse. Departs daily Aug 24/ggy/aa.

Miami Weekend \$529

INCLUDES roundtrip airfare, transfers and 3 nights 3-star accom. UPGRADE to 4-star accom from \$25 per night. Departs Aug 20/ggv/aa.

New York Weekend

INCLUDES roundtrip airfare, transfers and 3 nights 3-star downtown Marriott accom. UPGRADE to 4-star accom from \$47 per night. ADD NYC Twilight cruise from \$29. Departs Aug 20/ggy/aa.

San Francisco Wine Tour \$679 Cathedral Hill Hotel + taxes & fees \$128 INCLUDES roundtrip airfare, transfers, 3 nights 3-star accom and a full-day Napa & Sonoma Valley Wine tour. UPGRADE to 4-star accom from \$25 per night. Departs Sep 17/ggv/aa. **Europe Holidays** 

AMSTERDAM FLY & RAIL \$599

Eurail Benelux Pass + taxes & fees \$39

INCLUDES roundtrip airfare and a 5-day Eurail pass to expore The Netherlands, Luxembourg and Belgium at your own pace.

Travel Sep 14 - Sep 29/ggy/ts.

London Fly & Rail

BritRail England FlexiPass + taxes & fees \$457

INCLUDES roundtrip airfare and 3-day BritRail Flexi-Pass to explore England at your own pace. Travel Oct 3 - Oct 9/ggv/ts.

Italy Fly & Rail

Eurail Italy Pass

+ taxes & fees \$311

INCLUDES roundtrip airfare to Rome and

4-day rail pass to explore Italy at your own pace Travel Sep II - 23/ggv/ts.

### Adventure Holiday

Thailand Island Hopping \*\*T49\*
Thailand Island Hopping \*\*Iocal payment USD150
INCLUDES all accom, local transport, tour leader and local guides on this 9-day small group tour.
HIGHLIGHTS Bangkok, Ko Samui, Ko Pha Ngan, Ko Tao, Krabi, Ko Muk & Andaman Sea.
Departs Aug 29/gap.

Cruise Holidays

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onboard meals & entertainment. Sail from Seward
to Vancouver cruising the Inside Passage and Sawyer
Glacier and visit Ketchikan, Juneau and Skagway.
Port charges included. Sails Sep 4.

Western Caribbean

7 Days \$584'
Freedom of the Seas + taxes and fees \$76
INCLUDES 7-day Royal Caribbean cruise,

onboard meals & entertainment. Sail roundtrip from Port Canaveral and visit Labadee, Ocho Rios, Grand Cayman and Cozumel. Port charges included. Sails Sep 27.

Canada & New England \$705

Norwegian Spirit + taxes & fees \$116

\*\*Taxes & rees 31 INCL UDES 7-day NCL cruise, onboard meals & entertainment. Sail from Boston to Quebec City and visit Bar Harbor, Saint John (Bay of Fundy), Hallfax, Sydney and La Baie. Port charges included. Sails Oct 9.



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**\$978** + taxes & fees \$413

taxes & fees \$182

Hugh Jackman will unleash his singing skills on screen for a musical focused on legendary showman P.T. Barnum. Jenny Bicks is writing the script for Fox. METRO NEWS SERVICES

## **Entertainment**

### The Brit Awards

seven MTV Video Music Awards. Last year, the pop princess took home three Moon Man trophies for Piece of Me. EONLINE.COM

## Filmmakers toying around

STEVE GOW for Metro Canada

If Hollywood gets its way this weekend, we will all soon be going to theatres to take in thrillers about Stretch Armstrong, He-Man and even the popular **board game Monopoly.**That's because this Fri-

day's theatrical release of G.I. Joe: The Rise of Cobra will firmly establish the latest trend in filmmaking - movies based on popular toys.

Of course, it's not a completely novel idea. Even be-Transformers: Revenge of the Fallen racked up over \$380 million (and counting) this summer, there had been earlier

proverbial dips of the toe in the toy genre. But why have retro-toy movies become so popular?

"It's an escape from economic issues, woes and stress," said Transformers star Megan Fox recently. "People need to get away from reality and I think watching a movie about toys is a good way to numb your brain to things you don't want to be dealing with in life."

That nostalgic flight may be influential but there's also an entirely more strategic game working behind the scenes. With two major toy companies (Hasbro, Mattel) now aggressively paired with Hollywood's top talent agencies, it seems the toymakers are



G.I. Joe: The Rise of Cobra, which is based on the popular toy line, opens in theatres this Friday.

cross-pollinating product with the cinema directly.

In fact, Hasbro (both Transformers and G.I. Joe) has set up a six-year deal with Universal Pictures to obtain more authority on

their toys' image.

"I think what we're seeing in the world at large is the power of brands distinguishing themselves," Universal Pictures Chairman Marc Shmuger recently told The Business Insider.

"As we're gripped with fear and anxiety, we look for something we can rely on and trust ... so the value of brands has changed, (and with it) what the owners of the brands want to accomplish changes too.'

### Movie **feature**

In addition to the aforementioned toys turned into movies, other products in film development include board games like Battleship (with Hancock director Peter Berg attached) and Candy Land (written by Tropic Thunder's Etan Cohen).

As well, expect future movies about Hot Wheels, Masters of the Universe and even 1960s-era action figure Major Matt Mason which is linked to none other than Tom Hanks. And when you've pervaded the influence of such A-list actors as Hanks, you know vou've made it in Holly-

### **DID DIARRHEA GET YOU?**



TO RE-CREATE A MOMENT RUINED BY DIARRHEA

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Has an unstoppable bathroom emergency hit you when you least expected it? Tell us your most unforgettable diarrhea mishap for a chance to WIN.

(your story must be min 50 to max 100 words)

### Here is this week's top diarrhea disaster:

"I was in Cozumel, Mexico on a cruise stop, and had just finished lunch at a dockside restaurant. On my way back to the ship to grab something, my stomach started to turn and I knew something was wrong. I ran to the closest bathroom, but it was out of order. I ran to the next one, but it was full. I decided to try to run for the ship. Midway there I realized that I was never gonna make it in time, so rather than go in my pants, I dove off the dock, clothes and all, and found relief in the warm Mexican sea! When people asked why I jumped in the water suddenly like that, I told them my expensive cell phone slipped out of my hand and I wanted to retrieve it!" - S. Keogh

### Submit your story today at metronews.ca

purchase necessary. One entry per person. Contest open to Canadian residents of legal age, uding residents of Quebec. Contest doses August 26, 2009 at 1:59 pm. Odds of winning land on number of entries received. For full contest rules and details visit www.metonews.ca





### After Funny People, Judd Apatow down but not out

In the wake of the middling \$22.6 million US opening for Judd Apatow's latest film Funny People, Hollywood eagerly declared the prolific filmmaker's stock was still very high.

Managers, agents and development executives interviewed this week said Apatow's minor misstep at the box office as well as some industry grumbling about the picture's 146minute length and tone weren't likely to affect his standing with studios.

"This is someone who still makes movies at a pretty low cost, works with amazing talent and has the box office track record to back him up," one talent

People underperformed compared to Apatow's last



Judd Anatow

picture, Knocked which opened to \$30.7 million on the way to a \$149 million domestic total. Although it outgrossed the \$21.4 million opening of Apatow's first directorial effort. The 40-Year-Old Virgin, People is not expected to show the leggy holding that ultimately boosted Virgin to \$109.4 million at the domestic box office.

Still, the new Universal release nonetheless earned about one-third of its estimated \$75 million budget, and it could break even when all is said and done.

Many also were willing to give Apatow a pass be-cause he tried something off-brand by tackling more serious themes: Adam Sandler stars as a comedian diagnosed with a fatal disease. They said that Universal, which last week signed him to a three-picture directing deal, made the right move to lock up Apatow despite the shaky advance buzz for People.

REUTERS

### Deals could add millions to Jackson estate

**PEOPLE** An attorney for the executors of Michael Jackson's estate said yesterday that deals worked out in partnership with the King of Pop's concert promoter could provide millions of dollars to his estate.

Since his death in June, numerous reports have speculated that concert promoter AEG Live and the executors of Jackson's estate were working on arrangements to make videos, DVDs and other merchandise based on the Thriller singer's planned comeback.

Attorney Howard Weitzman, who represents Jackson's longtime lawyer John Branca and music industry

executive John McClain, the two executors of Jackson's will, said after a court hearing Monday that Los Angeles Superior Court Judge Mitchell Beckloff, who is overseeing matters related to the estate, will likely approve business agreements at an Aug. 10 hearing. REUTERS

**Mary Lynn married** 

24 star Mary Lynn Rajskub and personal trainer Matthew Rolph got married this weekend. The couple wed in a Las Vegas ceremony at the Planet Hollywood Resort & Casino, People reports. POPEATER.COM



### entertainment 17

### Paris has, like, lots of besties | Jon & Kate return

televised competition to find friends, but she says she uses one to give people a chance to be her pal who wouldn't have a shot otherwise.

"Obviously, in real life, I have a lot of friends," she says with a proud giggle. "The show is just a really funny and fun concept."

bleached-blonde member of the family behind the Hilton Hotels Corporation will name her newest confidante on the finale of Paris Hilton's My New BFF (that's "best friend forever." for the acronym-inept), this week. The show airs Thursday night on MuchMusic.

The competition is the second she's held in the United States, although things went sour with the first American victor. After visiting the hometowns of this season's three finalists on last week's episode, Hilton ousted California's Stephen Hampton, the sole remaining male.

Now, the final two pets of Paris - Florida's Stefanie Fritz and Louisiana's Tiniecia Goldsmith - are left to vie for the BFF title,



Paris Hilton will name her new BFF this week.

having outlasted 14 others in hopes of hobnobbing regularly with the heiress.

Whoever wins, Hilton says it's very important she doesn't change who she is when the shimmer of celebrity spills onto them.

When vou come in the

### On TV

 If you missed season two of Paris Hilton's My New BFF, you can experience it in its entirety Saturday on Star.

7:00

spotlight, anything can happen," she says. "You should never forget who you first were originally."

Among the qualities Hilton said she looks for in a BFF are trustworthiness, a good heart and the ability to humour her.

"I just want somebody who is real and not becoming my friend for any other reasons, to get face time or use me," she says.

And to make sure that doesn't happen? "Maybe I'll tell them a secret ... we'll see if it will get out,

8:00

even if it's a big rumour,"

But even if it doesn't work out again, perhaps Hilton will keep one of the other contenders in mind. She says that even after the show wrapped shooting, she still socialized with half the cast.

"They came over to my house party," she says. "Everyone this season has just been so much fun. There are so many big personalities in the house. But the person who won, I'm very close to.'

9:00 9:30

10:00

HIATUS A U.S. reality television show about a family with eight children was back on air on Monday despite the parents splitting up.

The show Jon & Kate Plus 8, aired by cable channel TLC, resumed after a sixweek hiatus spawned by the break-up of parents Jon and Kate Gosselin which sent ratings soaring.

As the series resumed its fifth season, the parents now living apart and taking turns looking after their 5-year-old sextuplets and twin girls. Despite the split, the pair decided their lives and the lives of their children would continue to be led in the spotlight.

resumed lacked the hostility between the couple of earlier shows and was dominated by mundane domestic issues such as renovations and recreation

'This is a very, very difficult time right now ... but my main goal is to make this transition as easy and painless, if that's possible, for the kids as possible," said Kate Gosselin during one of two 30 minute episodes that resumed the series.

11:00

One notable change in the show, which is expected to continue with each parent taking turns staving in the home with the children, was greater commentary from the toddlers addressing the cameras directly.

Razzing their mother's dubious outdoorsmanship in a second episode during which Kate and the children camped out in the backyard, they variously opined:

"She did a terrible job" trying to pitch a tent, and "We'd probably die if we lived in the nature with her" after she struggled to start a fire using a lighter.

The Gosselins are famous for having twins and sextuplets, which made for a crowded house, and the show documented the family's trials and triumphs as the children grew up.

But the couple announced they were ending their 10-year marriage during a one-hour episode in June, ending months of speculation and reports about their deteriorating relationship and allegations of affairs, which created a tabloid media fren-

### ABC on verge of rom-com series

SERIES ABC and Alyssa Milano will be Romantically Challenged this midseason. The network is close to ordering 13 episodes of the comedy centering on a thirtysomething man who is torn between his new girlfriend and needy best friend. The pilot was a serious contender for a berth on ABC's fall schedule.

### **Pair of actresses** score TV parts

ROLES Two veteran actresses have booked new TV gigs. Swoosie Kurtz has joined the Lifetime comedy series Rita Rocks in a recurring role, and Brenda Vaccaro has been added to the lineup of You Don't Know Iack, HBO Films' biopic of Jack Kevorkian.







### critics'corner—

Rhada Shivpuri (guest star Sarita Choudhury), one of Teddy and Philip's (James Purefoy, Jesse L. Martin) college friends, asks for help negotiating with the Indian and Pakistani governments in an effort to rebuild the water system in the Kashmir region. Philip and Dax (Michael Kenneth Williams) must lead a desperate manhunt after Teddy goes missing in a war-torn sector. Neve Campbell also stars in the new episode "Kashmir." 10 PM on 9 NBC 3 GTV



The Next Food **Network Star** 

In "Miami Up All Night," the remaining four finalists prepare to head to Miami for their next challenge, but first they must create a dish for one of OTG Management's restaurants at JetBlue's Terminal 5 at JFK Airport in New York. The finalists then go to Miami to cater a swanky party at the fabulous Nikki Beach nightclub. 10 PM on 95 FN

**18** entertainment



Michael Douglas' son Cameron Douglas has been arrested in New York on a drug charge, according to media reports. Douglas, 30, was arrested at the Hotel Gansevoort in Manhattan and faces a methamphetamine-dealing charge. PEOPLE.COM

### **Celebrity Buzz**

### Mischa gets off to a rough start

STUMBLING BLOCKS Mischa Barton's return to her social life hasn't been going too smoothly, according to Page Six.

A source spotted the actress out Saturday night in NYC's West Village where Barton was "having a disastrous dinner" with a group of girls.

"She was upset and talking frantically into her phone about having a stalker," the source said. "Her friends were trying to console her, but she went outside and chainsmoked cigarettes.

The next night, Barton attended a party where



### Hilton mom remembers Michael

NOSTALGIA Kathy Hilton, Paris' mom, was devastated by the recent loss of her "special friend' lifelong Michael Jackson, people.com reports.

"I have never lost anybody that I went to school with that I was close to in a friendship (that lasted) all these years," she told

Hilton believes that the late singer's mother Katherine will be a posi-tive guardian for the kids. adore Mrs. Jackson.

Katherine is the rock," said Hilton. "It is like Camp Jackson, all of those kids. All the aunts, the uncles, the children come there. She plays Scrabble with them. She loves it. I think that's what keeps her really young." Asked if Katherine has the en-

"Oh, she's got the energy," Hilton has fond memo-

ergy to watch over

her three grandkids,

Hilton responded:

ries of Jackson: "He was so much more normal than people know. He really He loved to giggle and have fun. I spent time with him, had dinners," she said. "He was the

best father ... He was a wonderful, kind, thoughtful, caring person. He would be there for people and he was so generous with his time and money.'

METRO NEWS

### Details on Jude's fling emerge

THE NITTY-GRITTY More details are emerging about how Jude Law first met Samantha Burke, American model who is pregnant with the actor's fourth child.

The pair met in January outside a New York nightclub after it closed at 4 a.m., according to the Sun, when Law took Burke to nearby diner before retiring to his

hotel room.

Sources say the affair lasted barely a week. Pals of Burke insist she was no party animal before meeting Law.

"She's actually innocent and inexperienced when it comes to men," a high school friend told the newspaper. METRO WORLD NEWS

### 'I'm not, but if I was.

FANNING THE FLAMES If Gerard Butler was dating Jen-nifer Aniston, he'd says he'd be the first to admit it, people.com reports.

"If I was, I would say I was," the actor told British TV show GMTV. Butler, 39, has been repeatedly linked to Aniston, 40, with whom he's currently filming The Bounty.

But even though the two look cozy in photos, he says there is

nothing to it. "It's just that if you're not married in Hollywood and you're working with somebody else who's single, you're having a thing with her."

But to add fuel to the fire, Butler says he's looking forward to sharing some kisses with her on set. "I'm excited ... I'm lucky — yeah, I know."

> NEWS SERVICES

### Nick ticks off the tax man

RONG SIDE OF THE LAW Nicolas Cage has reportedly run afoul of the tax man to the tune of \$6.3 million US, which might explain why a number of his homes, including spots in New Orleans and

Hollywood, are on the market, according to the Daily Mail.

The IRS has filed court pa-

pers seeking millions from IEGAL Now that she's been Cage for the 2007 fiscal year, when he starred in

four films, including National Treasure: Book of Secrets and Ghost Rider. Cage settled another tax dispute last year by paying nearly \$1 million to the IRS.

METRO WORLD NFW

### Mom pulls bid to control MJ estate

granted custody of her grandchildren, Katherine Jackson has withdrawn her petition to be put in charge of Michael Jackson's \$500 million estate, according to

Hollyscoop. Debbie Rowe, biological mother of the older two, will still have visitation rights.

METRO WORLD NEWS





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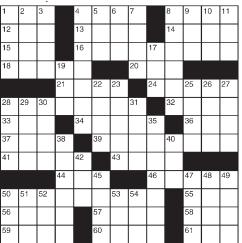




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### entertainment 19

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#### Sudoku

HOW TO PLAY: Digits 1 through 9 will appear once in each zone - one zone is an outlined 3x3 grid within the larger puzzle grid. There are nine zones in the puzzle. Do not enter a digit into a box if it already appears elsewhere in the same zone, row across or column down the entire puzzle.

	8		9					
6	9					8		1
		4		5				9
4		2		3	1			
	3						1	
			2	8		4		6
1				4		7		
9		7					5	2
					6		8	

1 Request 4 MacDonald's place 8 Woman of the knight 12 Skedaddle 13 Curved molding 14 Bloodhound's clue 15 Lemieux milieu 16 Ruthless, as a competition 18 Winning 20 Twitch 21 Honey bunch? 24 PAC's concern 28 Likely loser 32 Swampy terrain 33 "A pox upon thee!" 34 Above, to an editor 36 Predetermine 37 Watch wolfishly 39 Carnival goer's lunch, mavbe

41 Bookcase component 43 "Wheel of Fortune" option 44 Commotion

46 Legerdemain 50 Basic swimming stroke 55 Praise in verse

56 Rainbow 57 Slay 58 Antiquated

59 Kelly or Siskel 60 Calendar abbr. 61 Turn blue?

1 Met melody 2 Similar things 3 Elbow counterpart 4 Animals entrees 5 In olden times 6 Rule, for short

7 Encounter 8 E-business 9 Toss into the mix

PREVIOUS DAY'S CROSSWORD AND SUDOKU ANSWERS:

10 Cattle call 11 Work unit 17 Have a bug 19 Honest politician 22 Learning (Abbr) 23 Future juniors

25 Shuttlecock 26 Vivacity, to the maestro

27 Safecracker 28 Fleet from far away?

29 Approaching 30 Takeout order?

31 Clench 35 Food 38 Pass by

40 — jiffy 42 Medicine approval org. 45 Probability

47 Suitable 48 Without acting

49 Relinquish 50 Use a shovel

51 Raw rock 52 Card-player's call

9 8

3 6 2 8 4 9

4 5 1

2 4 6

6 7 3

2 4

9 3

7 6 3

5 7

9 8

9 8 4

1 3 7

A

daily (

CAN WE, LIKE, SWITCH TOPICS ?

I'M EATING

8

8 3 9

6 7 3 5

1 2 5

4 3 9 8 6 5

6 9 8

2

53 Fawn's mama 54 Back talk

### Take Five



### Two-cheese Soufflé

### INGREDIENTS:

5 large eggs 3/4 cup (175 ml) 1% milk 2 tbsp (25 ml) all-purpose flour 1/4 tsp (1 ml) salt Several dashes hot red

pepper sauce 1/3 cup (75 ml) shredded Colby cheese 1/3 cup (75 ml) shredded

#### Swiss cheese METHOD:

1. Separate eggs. Discard 2 yolks. Place egg whites in medium bowl. Place egg yolks in small bowl. Set aside.

2. Preheat oven to 325 F(160 C). Make foil collar and attach to 1-1/2-qt (1.5l) soufflé dish. Lightly grease foil collar and soufflé dish. In small pot, whisk milk, flour, salt and red pepper sauce. Cook over moderate heat. stirring constantly, until mixture starts to thicken. Cook and stir 2 minutes

more, until thickened and bubbly. Add cheese and stir until melted. Remove from heat.

3. Whisk egg yolks until light. Add some hot cheese mixture to yolks, then slowly whisk all of yolk mixture into cheese mixture.

4. With electric mixer on high, beat egg whites until soft peaks form. Stir one-fourth of whites into hot cheese mixture, then quickly fold in remaining whites. Spoon into prepared soufflé dish. Make top hat. Bake 45 minutes or until puffy and golden. Serve immediately.

**SERVES 4** 

### rd.ca

For nutritional infor mation on this and other great recipes, go to rd.ca or check out Key Ingredients in this month's Reader's Digest, on



### Horoscopes by Sally Brompton sallybrompton.com

### For Sally's expanded daily and weekend horoscopes, visit metronews.ca

### ARIES

MARCH 21-APRIL 20
There really is no limit to what you can accomplish, though your efforts are more likely to bring success if you focus on what is important.

### LIBRA

SEPT 23-OCT 23

Don't waste time dreaming and scheming of ways to turn back the clock. You know it can't be done.

### **TAURUS**

APRIL 21-MAY 21

Someone you are close to will be emotionally demanding, but if you put yourself out for them now it will save you a lot of problems later on.

### **SCORPIO**

OCT 24-NOV 22
You are not the type to keep your opinions to yourself but be aware that if you deliberately antagonize someone today, they will hit back at you later.

#### **GEMINI** MAY 22-JUNE 21

On the web

What you do with your life is limited only by the boundaries you allow your mind to impose on your actions. There are no limits. All things are possible.

#### **SAGITTARIUS NOV 23-DEC 21**

If you feel like packing your bags and heading off into the wide blue yonder by all means do so. Don't hesitate for even a

#### CANCER JUNE 22-JULY 22

 $(\Pi)$ 

The Sun in the most worldly area of your chart makes this a good time to look at what you own and earn. Try something different

#### **CAPRICORN DEC 22-JAN 20**

Life moves in cycles and the cycle you are experiencing seems like you are taking too many backward steps.

#### LEO JULY 23-AUG 23

This is one of the best times of the year for getting things done, both in your personal life and in your work, so don't hold back

### **AQUARIUS**

JAN 21-FEB 18
You tend to see the world in terms of black and white, but at some point today you will realize that too narrow a viewpoint can be self-defeating.

#### VIRGO AUG 24-SEPT 22

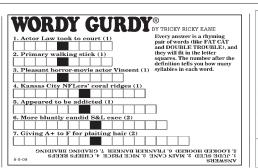
The Sun's transit of the most sensitive sector of your chart means you won't be able to fool either yourself or other people.

### **PISCES**

FEB 19-MARCH 20

Assess your priorities and decide what is worth devoting your time and energy to and what can and must be ignored. Aim for quality work.











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